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THE
S P E E C H
OF 30
BOISSY D'ANGLAS,
ON THE POLICY OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
WITH RESPECT TO
FOREIGN NATIONS;
ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION,
AS A DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE
FRENCH PEOPLE.

Jan. 30th, 1795.

AND THE
P R O C L A M A T I O N
OF THE
A S S E M B L Y
OF
P R O V I S I O N A L R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S
ON THE
C O M M U N E O F A M S T E R D A M .

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TAKTUETUWY LAKHOU

SPEECH, &c.

IN a former discourse I recapitulated the principles of justice and candour upon which the Government of France now rests. I shewed in what manner that Government, at once *Republican* and *Revolutionary*, had laid among us the foundations of a real public credit, and created, in the face of all Europe, a Power, in some sort, new.

I shewed in what manner the French People, starting from the sleep of Slavery, had resumed their place among the Nations, from the number of which it was attempted to blot them out ; had begun to repair their immense losses ; and had prepared all the seeds of their future prosperity.

I am now going to take a view of the external situation of this vast Empire—of the relations of France with other Nations, and of their interests with respect to her. I will tell you how the happiness of the world must necessarily result from the establishment of the Liberty of France, and the Peace of the Universe from the Peace your are going to negotiate with your neighbours.

I will advertise the greater part of those who make War upon us of the dangers to which they expose themselves, by declaring against us ; which dangers are of such a nature, that success itself, if success were possible, would serve only to render them more imminent. I will repel the atrocious calumnies of those orators in the pay of Tyrants, who, having no longer any hope of enslaving us by arms, would still excite against us as many enemies as there are Governments in Europe, and deprive us of that National credit, which accrues to a great Nation from its respect for other Nations and its public morality.

It is time that the formulas of an ancient and ill-advised policy give place to the frank and sincere expressions of Free-men ; it is time that Truth, in the tribune of the Legislator, resume that influence which she ought never to have lost. The language I shall hold will form a remarkable contrast to the infidious words with which the sittings of another *soi-disant* Representative Assembly resound at this moment ; an Assembly, which, in its counterfeit Debates, its Quixotic rhodomontades, and fawning Addresses, denies your successes, dissembles your victories, outrages your principles, and dares still

still to threaten a Liberty which three years of fruitless attack ought at length to compel the world to respect.

When the most exasperated passions are every where forging arms to divide us, to destroy or enslave us, animated by the most noble passions, inflamed by the love of Liberty and our Country, we must oppose imperturbable justice to their violent fury, and Republican constancy to their rash impetuosity.

Almost all the Thrones of the earth have put themselves in motion, to fall upon us ; their Ministers have leagued together ; their armies have conglomerated ; their thunders have flashed, to destroy our infant Liberty. But their ravaging cohorts, overthrown by our patriot battalions, have been dissipated, like those thick clouds which seem to announce a tempest, and which a salutary wind disperses and annihilates.

While we had to combat only the hatred of the Coalesced Kings and the fury of their soldiers, the burning valour of the French, their inexhaustible courage, the constant sacrifices of all the Citizens, sufficed to prove to the universe how worthy we are of Liberty, and how chimerical the hope of those who would wrest it from us. But now, Citizens, that our triumphs have carried dismay into the bosom of the Countries which pretended to give chains to France, we have another kind of attack to sustain, and other efforts to repulse. They cannot conquer the French :—they endeavour to calumniate them.

All the Nations of the world admire our courage ; they all lament seeing their blood and their treasures exhausted, to tear from us our Liberty. Attempts are made to destroy us in their opinion, and to impute to us alone the innumerable calamities which this long and terrible War has poured out upon them. Neither the fury of the Coalesced Kings, nor the efforts of their soldiers, have we any cause to dread, but we will always respect the opinion of the People of other States, whatever may be their Governments, their force, their weakness, their good or ill fortune.

We will not seek, as we have been often charged with doing, to trouble their internal organization, and to make them adopt our laws ; but we will not suffer our principles to be poisoned in their eyes, their esteem to be taken from us, and the ambitious authors of a ruinous war to charge us with the melancholy fruits of their own vanity, crimes, and ambition.

For three years humanity has groaned and suffered—for three years Europe has been inundated with blood, and the People

People weighed down with taxes. This insensate desire to partition or enslave France is evidently the cause or the pretext of all these evils ; and, when a part of our enemies, discouraged by our success, or enlightened by experience, seem willing to let the earth respire ; when the people, indignant at the calamities with which they are overwhelmed, seem every where commanding their Governments to put an end to the horrors of War, some cruel and crafty Politicians would persuade them, that we alone are insensible to these cries of suffering Humanity ; that we alone thirst for their blood ; that no Peace with us can be safe or honorable ; that the continuation of the War is advantageous to them ; and, finally, this absurd contradiction, that, on the one hand, our pride and our ambition are too formidable for us to be treated with, and, on the other, that our efforts have too much exhausted us not to afford hopes of certain success, by continuing the contest.

We ought, Citizens, out of respect to humanity, to expose these contradictions, reply to these calumnies, hold up the light to every eye, and unmask those Machiavelian Governments which, sporting with the blood of men and the fortune of the people, aim at rearing a colossal greatness on the ruin of the principal powers of Europe.

We ought to convince all virtuous men that we detest war without fearing it ; that we are always ready to put a stop to its horrors, when a peace shall be offered to us consistent with our dignity, and capable of guaranteeing our safety. We ought, at the same time, to advertize the people of all nations that, ready to negociate with frankness, we will not suffer our arms to be paralyzed, or our triumphs to be suspended by negotiations, false or futile.

Our armies who brave the seasons, master the elements, and turn to their advantage all the obstacles which nature and art seem to oppose to them ; our armies who, rushing over the frozen inundations of Holland, have completed the conquest of it in less time than was formerly necessary to make the tour, will charge themselves with demonstrating to our enemies, that far from being exhausted by three years of war, we have only augmented our resources, and added to the experience of our Generals, to the discipline of our soldiers, to that Republican ardour which has never ceased to inflame their souls. But we ought, above all, to prove to the universe that the ambition of the English Government, the interested policy of the House of Austria, and the pride of Russia, are the sole causes of the misfortunes of the world.

Powers of Europe ! Open your eyes, contemplate your true dangers ; distinguish at last your true enemies ; consider with affright the abyss into which they are dragging you, by sometimes making France a bugbear to terrify, and sometimes representing it as a prey easy to be divided. Suffering people, deluded monarchs, envied Republics, follow with me the Courts of Vienna, of Petersburg, and above all, of London, through the dark labyrinth of their crafty policy ! the torch of evidence will conduct you, and you will then see what are the projects you ought to fear, the enemies you ought to combat, the friends you ought to embrace.

The politics of the Cabinet of Vienna have been long unveiled. Constant in their ambitious projects, Princes have succeeded one another on that throne for several ages, preserving always the same spirit, pursuing incessantly the same system. The object is always invariable ; but the means of accomplishing it continually changing. The House of Austria, for its aggrandizement, has by turns employed treaties, ruptures, marriages, intrigues and arms. Before Russia had civilized herself, and Prussia had become a power, France, Turkey, and Sweden formed alone the rampart to protect the empire against the Emperors. Since the rivals of the Court of Vienna increased in number and in force, that Court has negotiated so dexterously, that it has been very near destroying by artifice the counterpoise which balanced its power. It weakened the Turks by sacrificing them to the Russians ; it seduced France to such a degree that Prussia once saw itself on the brink of complete destruction, in spite of the genius of Frederic and the discipline of his soldiers.

Twice since that period it has been on the point of possessing Bavaria ; first by force of arms, and next by an exchange ; finally, seeing that, notwithstanding its connections with France, the French did not second its views, it wished perfidiously to destroy its ally ; and profiting of the shocks of our Revolution, it favoured our internal enemies, formed plots in the very bosom of our government, and leagued all Europe against us, under the haughty pretext of maintaining the cause of Kings, but with the real design of taking from us Alsace, Lorrain, and a part of Flanders ; and of ridding itself for ever of the observation of a people whose glory always excited its envy, and whose force always repressed its audacity. The event has deceived its expectation. It has already lost the Pays Bas, its fortresses, its cannon, its treasures ; its armies have disappeared before ours, the reputation of its Generals is vanished, and every thing

thing announces, that upon the Cabinet of Vienna, the day of justice is arrived. It now exhibits nothing but the spectacle of disappointed ambition and impotent wrath. It fears peace, but it cannot continue the war; and there is not a power of Europe which does not see, that its policy is to engage other powers to ruin themselves to fight for its interests, and to recover for it what it has lost.

Prussia must now know on what side was artifice, and on what side sincerity. Every thing must make Frederick William regret having listened to the councils of his natural enemy, in preference to the pacific Envoys of a Free Nation, which shewed him the truth and offered him a useful amity; he must regret having been the dupe of some crowned intriguers, of some dextrous negotiators, who led him into the only course that could ruin him. Spain, the Empire, Sardinia must experience the same regret. These Powers must shudder at seeing the abyss into which it has been attempted to plunge them. They have only the melancholy prospect of sharing the fate of Holland, or of being annihilated under the yoke of the two Courts that have seduced them. Ah! what we ought above all to shew to these deluded Powers, for the interest of Europe, is the danger which they are menaced with by two Colossusses they support, which will conclude by subjugating them, if our sacrifices and our courage do not stop them in their progress. England and Russia, these are the two enemies we ought to denounce to the universe; these are the tyrants we ought to denounce to the world; these are the wide wasting torrents whose irruption we must stop. More dextrous, better situated, less unfortunate than Austria, they alone have hitherto profited of the general calamities and errors of the coalition.

Rouse from your sleep States of the Empire, King of Prussia, and all ye maritime Powers!—your fleets, your forces, your cultivators, your finances, your blood, all you have been made to sacrifice, to give to Russia the empire of the land, and that of the seas to proud Albion. Do you forget that the inhabitants of the North destroyed the Roman Empire, more united, more formidable than you? Must you be reminded of those irruptions of the Goths and Vandals, inundating all Europe, to destroy all the empires of it? Must you be reminded that for 60 years Russia introducing a gross civilization among her barbarous people, preserving a savage force, even while enriching herself with arts and modern tactics, has already humbled the Chinese, and planted colonies on the coast of America; that she has passed the Caucasus, subjected Georgia, imposed laws upon a part of Persia, subjugated

gated the Cossacks, destroyed the Tartars, conquered the Crimea, partitioned Poland, dismayed the Ottoman Empire, raised insurrection in Greece, and menaced Constantinople?

Must we open wounds not yet entirely healed, and mention the numerous battalions entering Berlin itself, which but for the unforeseen caprice of Peter III. would have annihilated the very name of the Prussian power? Do you not see that the ambitious Catharine, by holding out vain promises to the emigrants, by inflaming the rage of the German Princes against French liberty, has contrived to entangle her rivals in a war which exhausts them, in order to make herself mistress of Poland, and so open to her the gates of Germany? I know it may be said, with some foundation, that the Russian Empire is a Colossus with feet of clay; that in it corruption has preceded maturity; that the slavery which exists in it, deprives its force of all solidity, and its resources of all energy; that its extent is immense, but partly desert; that it is proud but poor; that it is already too vast to be governed; that by extending itself it accelerates its own dissolution; and that every conquest it makes is a step towards its ruin. I admit these truths; but this giant, before he perishes, will crush you; it is upon your ruins that he must fall; he will not dismember himself till after you are ravaged, dispersed, and annihilated. Danes, Swedes, Germans, Prussians, Ottomans, think of this; time flies, the thunder rattles, Vienna betrays you; the Muscovite torrent is augmenting; Attila is once more advancing, and if you do not unite in time to arrest this destructive scourge, you are undone.

You are taught to fear France. What a strange error! If your Government be wise, and founded on true principles, why envy us? If from its nature it be as disastrous as you are told, why dread a People that carries in its own bosom a source of weakness or of agitation, that must prevent it from meddling with you? The constancy of our efforts, the duration of our sacrifices, the permanence of our victories, do they not demonstrate before-hand the stability of treaties that may be made with us?—Are not changes of system, by a great nation, necessarily more rare than the changes and caprices of Ministers, of Mistresses, and of Favourites? Ah! our interests are common. What signifies it, that we have outstript you in the career of Liberty! What signify our Constitution and our Laws, our principles and our opinions! Policy commands you to unite with us, and to march with equal pace against the enemies that threaten us. When it is dinned in your ears that it is neither safe nor honourable to treat with us, translate this language into its true meaning, and learn that

that Austria says—“ Fight that I may regain my provinces ;” and know that England does not urge you to fight but in the hope you will prevent us from opposing her maritime conquests ; finally, listen to Russia ; mark her very words—“ Fight, exhaust yourselves, lavish all your blood, and all your treasures, that I may, without obstacle, quit my defarts, and spread my warlike population over your fertile territories.”

Oh, ye Politicians of Europe, who boast of wisdom so exalted, of penetration so profound, how is it possible, that you have not yet lifted up the veil which hides from your eyes the Machiavelian politics of the English Government !—How is it ye do not see to what degree it abuses you, and what a game it makes of all it professes to respect ? That Government accuses us of immorality ; and when, by an Armed Neutrality, the robbery of Neutral Commerce was to be repressed, it was the only civilized Government which unblushingly opposed the measure. It accuses us of having broken the peace and violated the right of nations, and it insulted our Ambassador. It professes to hate intolerant Papacy, and it takes up arms to defend the superstitions of Rome. It pretends to cherish Liberty, and it is in alliance with the oppressors of Poland. It reproaches us with cruelties of which we execrate and punish the authors ; and it has filched Asia with pillage and dead bodies, has hired savages to enslave the Americans, and purchased men of a German Prince, fixing before-hand the price of each wound, of each mutilation ; in a word, settling the tariff of every drop of blood of those miserable slaves. It charges us with ambition, and foolishly strives to render itself master of all the colonies. It has the audacity to say that we make war without humanity ; and it has attempted to avenge its disasters, by exposing twenty-four millions of men to a famine from which chance and our valour have protected us. It clamours every where that we want to attack the independence of other States ; and it attempted to compel Genoa, Venice, Sweden and Denmark, to renounce the most respectable and the most sacred of all rights, that of remaining neuter amid the horrors of war. Finally, it has the hardihood to declare that it is not safe to treat with us—that Government does so which, when in alliance with Russia, excited the Turks to make war upon her, and afterwards abandoned them :—that Government which encouraged the Poles in their Revolution, and left them without support—that Government which armed Sweden against the Russians, and betrayed it—that Government which forced Holland to fight against us, and after lending

It a feeble aid, confined its efforts to diminishing the account of its losses—that Government, in fine, which after having seduced the unfortunate inhabitants of La Vendee and Toulon, tranquilly enjoyed the spectacle of their ruin.

Irresolute Spaniards, what do you expect? If Chance should disappoint our courage, if, persisting in your unaccountable coalition, you should paralyze our efforts against your implacable enemy, and if that enemy, establishing herself in our colonies, should destroy the aliment of our marine? Do you not see her already laying hold of your galleons, digging your mines, wresting from you the empire of Mexico, that of Peru, Porto-Rico, Cuba; driving you from all the seas, and from the heights of Gibraltar insulting your misfortunes, and enjoying your misery? In 1790, had she not already drawn the sword against you because she thought you in no condition to defend yourselves? Did not we turn it aside at the moment when, reckoning on our troubles, she hoped to strike you with impunity? Do not her attempts upon Corsica announce that she wishes to expel you from the Mediterranean, as she aspires at chasing you from the Ocean?

Awake then at the call of truth; appreciate at their just value the calumnies spread against us; see in the speeches with which the Parliament of London resounds, nothing but the fear of peace, but the language of ambition unmasked, and let us take upon ourselves the care of our vengeance and of our safety. It is not only safe, it is honourable to treat with us: but the measure is become indispensable to your safety; we have made known to you the necessity of it, learn the means; we are too grand, too powerful, to have any thing to disguise.

Our past dangers, the necessity of rendering the return of them impossible, the example of the menacing league which wanted to over-run us, and at one time carried desolation into the heart of France; the sincere desire of rendering peace solid and durable, oblige us to extend our frontiers, to take for our limits great rivers, mountains, and the ocean, and thus, before hand and for a long series of ages, to secure ourselves from all invasion and from all attack. At this price, the powers of Europe may depend upon an inviolable peace and upon courageous allies, capable of disengaging them from the weight of the two rash Colossuses that, in their guilty delirium, want to arrogate at once the empire of the land and of the seas.

Such, citizens, are the grand truths which every thing now commands us to develope before the eyes of Europe.

In vain is it attempted to mislead the people of other nations, by telling them that our government being only provisional, no tie, no treaty, can have any guarantee. Our government is the Plenipotentiary nominated by the totality of the French People to terminate in their name the revolution and the war; and I doubt if ever Ambassador was seen invested with power more ample, or a character more august.

What signify the combinations of which governments are formed, when treaties are formed with the people to whom those governments belong! The peace which you will soon solicit, will be much more solid from being given to you by the assent of the whole people. Our government is the will of the nation; our forms are justice; our principles are humanity; your guarantee is the sincerity and the courage of a nation which has willed to be free.

Appreciate our actual government by the spectacle which it offers to the world; it has repressed intestine troubles; annihilated rebel factions; broken down the scaffolds; opened the prisons; avenged innocent blood; devoted to death and infamy the ministers of terror; it has restored liberty to commerce; tranquility to agriculture; in the interior it has made justice the order of the day, and victory on the frontiers.

Ah! all enlightened nations will listen with the smile of contempt and of pity, to the absurd or perfidious politicians who call in question, whether a nation that can conquer has the power of negotiating; who dare still to maintain that peace is impossible at the moment when every thing demonstrates that obstinacy is insensate and resistance vain.

Adopt, citizens, the ideas I have traced; speak with that noble frankness which befits the majesty of the French people, and you will soon see the diplomatic subtleties of your enemies confounded by the wisdom of your councils, as you have seen their temerity punished by the courage of your warriors.

PROCLAMATION,
BY THE ASSEMBLY OF PROVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNE OF AMSTERDAM,
TO THE CITIZENS, &c. TO AVERT THE DANGERS WHICH ARE APPROACHING
THEY ARE DECLARING THAT THEY ARE INDEFINITELY SUSPENDING
LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY.

THE Assembly of Provisional Representatives of the Commune of Amsterdam having received, from time to time, and on the part of different citizens, demands, tending to the embracing of measures, which would put into a state of arrest in general the former members of the now abolished Government, and other suspected persons; the Assembly has not only been constantly of opinion that it ought not to embrace such measures, but it also thinks itself obliged to explain to all its compatriots in general, and to the inhabitants of Amsterdam in particular, whom it represents, what is its manner of thinking on a subject of this importance, and what are the principles on which its opinion is founded.

We shall set out, citizens, with declaring that we neither could nor would, for a single moment, suppose that the repeated instances of a part of our fellow-citizens to make us take rigorous measures, could proceed from any motive of hatred or revenge. The Dutch, from the very moment when they first broke their chains, gave to astonished Europe, too grand an example of generosity and humanity, to let us believe that they would fully that glory, in the moments of tranquility, by avenging themselves on a set of humbled despots, deprived of all strength. He deserves not to triumph who basely abuses his victory. He alone can promise himself the constant and agreeable fruits of victory, who makes his vanquished foes blush by his justice and generosity, and convinces them that they are the persons who have chosen the worst side of the cause to defend. Citizens, Generosity and Justice carry with them irresistible force. Nothing can save the cause of our country but a constant adherence to these virtues. The exercise of revenge may afford a transitory pleasure in the moments of passion and delirium, but its consequences are commonly sad and fatal, while the exercise of equity and of generosity leaves nothing but agreeable sensations.

Such, citizens, are our sentiments; such ought to be yours. Real guardians of Freedom and Equality, you are capable of perceiving their value and their force. And woe betide the country if this doctrine shall not become the universal doctrine of the Nation.

Since

Since then, citizens, we cannot differ on these principles, it will be easy to convince the virtuous patriot that the system which we have adopted in our Assembly, is in effect the only one that agrees with the real interests of the country.

Let us begin by presenting to your view the great end that every honest man, and above all, every citizen entrusted with any public authority, ought to propose to himself. This end ought to be, to settle this Revolution upon the most immoveable foundations, to the end that all the inhabitants of the land may feel the permanent benefits of the social life under an administration founded on the principles of Freedom and Equality. See here, citizens, the great end that a good man ought perpetually to have before his eyes ; and he, who has other views, whether he be placed in the Senate, whether he labour in another sphere, or whether he be in a private situation, (the most enviable, doubtless, of all situations) plays, under the mask of patriotism, the part of an hypocrite, and a deceiver of the People.

But how to attain this end ? No method more likely than to shew on the one hand, grandeur and generosity with respect to the past ; on the other, to be severe and inexorable to all attempts against Freedom and the Supremacy of the People. Citizens, Philosophers of all nations and ages, have invariably judged that when civil dissensions are over, the conquering party has always been guilty of injustice, when it has thought worthy of punishment actions which the chiefs of the conquered party have done to maintain their cause, and has, in consequence of these principles, set on foot a general persecution. Actions, which are at all times criminal ; actions, which are morally bad, independently on all political relations, and by consequence, always punishable, are then the only ones that can, according to the principles of justice, be taken into consideration. These are also the only actions which a righteous Judge, whose judgement ought not to be directed by any influence of political passions, will esteem criminal and worthy of punishment ; and not those actions which we at present most justly consider as highly pernicious, but which have been committed under the eyes, and with the plenary approbation of the preceding Government.

If we reject these principles, there is no longer security for any human action ; and let it not be dissembled, that he who preaches a contrary doctrine, proclaims in effect the right of the strongest, and consequently the favourite Right of Tyrants.

Let none imagine, citizens, that the true interest of the nation can, either in this point of view, or in any other, differ from

from the rules of justice. Never do the true interests of a nation exact the slightest deviation from the rules of Justice and good Faith, under whatsoever pretext. Our country will support itself or be crushed, as it shall adopt or reject these truths. The system of Terror, already quite banished from the French Republic, cannot be tolerated a single instant in that spot of the earth where we live ; it would sink us in ruin for ever. Our political Constitution, our local situation, our commercial relations, are all circumstances too delicate to support repeated scenes of violence and political shocks.

Cast your eyes, citizens, upon the state of the finances of your country, of your city. Will it not require all the zeal, all the elasticity of a commercial nation, to fill your exhausted coffers ? But are this zeal and this elasticity compatible with a system of terror ? Doubtless not : in bringing to perfection this Revolution, one sort of Terror only ought to be tolerated : Terror to those who have the hardness and malice to undertake any thing against the Revolution. The most severe penalties against such men will be so much the more equitable, as our conduct with respect to the past shall be noble and generous.

It is a great mistake, citizens, to compare the circumstances of France in the course of her Revolution, with ours. It was not in France a spirit of revenge for the crimes committed under the old Government, which occasioned those repeated scenes of Terror ; but the violent opposition to the Revolution itself, which occasioned the necessity of a proportionable vigilance to crush all conspiracies. But what opposition, citizens, have we to expect ? If a wise and just Administration completes this Revolution, is not the doctrine of Freedom and Equality so amiable of itself, so deeply graven in our nature, that it will soon penetrate all hearts with irresistible energy ? Will not all who have been misled by court-artifices return from their error ? Let us shew by facts, that a Democratical Government, well ordered, is not only possible, but that it is the sole form of Government that accords with the dignity of man ; and soon will this order of things be established by universal consent, upon the surest foundations. Let us prove the falsehood of all the rumours that have been spread among the multitude, whether they proceeded (O shame !) from the Chair, or from the bosom of the Councils, and soon will the multitude itself despise its seducers. Slander painted the doctrine of Freedom and Equality, as the immediate source of confusion, and the grave of Religion. But, citizens, where will Slander now hide her head,

head, when every citizen is protected in his person, in his property; and when the gates of the Temples are open to every one, that he may adore our common Father in the manner to which he is prompted by the feelings of his heart?

These are the lively effects of a wise and philosophic policy, which can and ought happily to accomplish this Revolution. All the political dissensions, all the Revolutions that have taken place in this State since its origin, vanish before so interesting a Revolution as the present. They were only disputes between party and party; trials of skill for the most part between knaves and knaves; in which the people had no part to play but the part of the dupe. To-day it is the cause of the People itself, in which we labour, in which you all ought to labour. To-day it is not a faction, but the nation herself, who is victorious. We must direct our views, not to the welfare of a few Despots, but to the happiness of the whole Nation.

Let us then always, citizens, consider our Revolution under this important regard. Let us endeavour to give it such a direction that it shall be in vain to seek to foment new political dissensions; let the example of our deposed Despots be to us a lesson to avoid the base as well as impolitic faults they have committed. Have their senseless persecutions made the prisons of this country cry for vengeance, and the complaints of the Dutch, become fugitives in all parts of the world, call forth curses upon their Administration? Let us make it our glory to convince Europe, that it is the Dutch Nation, and not a faction, that now triumphs; that it is the cause of Freedom and Equality, not the spirit of Revenge and Destruction; in short, that sound policy now reigns on one side to make a cordial offer of the right hand of fellowship to her stray brethren, and not to drive them to despair; on the other, to hold high the sword of punishment, in order to strike the first traitor that henceforth shall presume to oppose the Freedom and Supremacy of the People. For though the first part of this alternative be the true end of the real friend of humanity, the other ought no less to fix the attention of the severe Republican, that those who lie in ambush against Freedom, may see even from afar, that their actions are carefully watched, and that the Nation which so generously pardons, is ready to inflict exemplary punishment on criminals the moment her Freedom is attacked.

Such, citizens, are the motives of the conduct we have pursued: such is the rule of our actions. We believe that a firm adherence to this system is the only method of completing the Revolution

Revolution, and of fixing the universal national happiness on
the soil of Batavia.

Decreed the 11th of February, 1795, the first year of Dutch
Liberty.

Published the 13th of February following.

By Order of the above-mentioned Representatives.

G. BRENDER à BRANDIS, Secretary.